

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
MONTH

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Biotechnology Month. Biotechnology is revolutionizing the quality of life for millions of people around the world. The United States, and Washington State in particular, is home to some of the leading biotechnology companies in the world.

Biotechnology is revolutionizing every facet of medicine, from diagnosis to treatment of all diseases, not just bacterial infections. It is detailing life at the molecular level and someday will take much of the guesswork out of disease management and treatment. The implications for health care are greater than any milestone in medical history.

Take cancer, for example. The first biotechnology medicines have been used in conjunction with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation to enhance their effectiveness, lessen adverse side effects and reduce the chances of cancer recurrence. Future biotech cancer drugs, however, such as vaccines that prevent abnormal cell growth, may make traditional treatments obsolete.

In cardiovascular diseases, biotech drugs that either dissolve or prevent blood clots in the treatment of heart attacks are being applied to cases of ischemic stroke, reducing brain damage and hospital recovery time. Another biotech medicine is proving successful in late-stage clinical trials for angina and may represent the first new class of drugs to treat that condition since introduction of calcium channel blockers in the 1970's.

Advancements in research on inflammatory diseases also have yielded first-of-a-kind drugs to treat multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Other medicines in late-stage clinical trials block the start of the molecular cascade that triggers inflammation's tissue damaging effects in numerous disease states.

In treatment of infectious diseases, biotechnology is leading the attack on the alarming problem of drug-resistant bacteria, creating antibiotics to take the place of those no longer effective. It also has revealed the genetic composition of bacteria and viruses, making the search for new remedies more efficient. Most biotech drugs are designed to treat our most devastating and intractable illnesses. In many cases these medicines would be the first ever therapies for those diseases.

In my home of Washington State, there are 116 biotechnology companies that employ over 7,000 people. Employment in Washington State biotechnology and medical technology industry is projected to increase to nearly 20,000 workers by 2005. Thousands of patient lives have been improved or saved by the relatively new products produced by Washington biotechnology companies. These products include Enbrel for rheumatoid arthritis, Leukine for cancer, and TOBI for cystic fibrosis. This number is expected to grow exponentially as more products are approved for market.

It is vital that Congress and the administration take into account the developments and

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

advancements in this industry and work to encourage the massive amount of private capital being invested in these medical breakthroughs. Congress can help by fully supporting federal investments in math and science education, research performed at public universities and the National Institutes of Health. Congress should work with the Administration to modernize the drug approval process and to make sure that the Medicare system takes advantage of the potential cost savings brought forth by developments in the biotechnology industry.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Biotechnology Month and look forward to the next great news in the newspapers of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE STERNE, A
GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bobbie Sterne, a community leader who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 4, 2000, by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. She was selected for her outstanding community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

Mrs. Sterne grew up in Moran, Ohio, and currently resides in North Avondale. She graduated from Akron City Hospital School of Nursing and attended both the University of Akron and the University of Cincinnati. She and her husband, the late Dr. Eugene Sterne, have two daughters. During World War II, she served at the rank of first lieutenant with the 25th General Hospital Unit in Europe.

Mrs. Sterne has made a difference in the community of Cincinnati—particularly through her 25 years of service as an elected official. She served on the Cincinnati City Council from 1971 to 1985 and then from 1987 to 1998 and in 1976, she became the first woman mayor of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Sterne has received numerous awards and honors, including the Citizen's committee on Youth's Most Valuable Citizen Award; Council of Jewish Women Hannah G. Solomon Award; Ohio Woman of the Year; Inquirer Woman of the Year; Ohio Woman Hall of Fame; YMCA's Career Women of Achievement; the Salvation Army's "Other" Award; the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame; the Lighthouse Youth Services Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award; and the Alcoholism Council Tracy Bissell Memorial Award, among others.

Mrs. Sterne still actively serves the community on numerous boards, including the Charter Committee; Government Relations Committee of the Community Chest; Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Woman Sports Association Board; the Ohio United Way Board; the Hamilton County Department of Human Services Planning Committee; the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati; the Fountain Square Fund Restoration Committee; and Chair of the Emergency Service Coalition.

Mrs. Sterne's commitment to community service was instilled at an early age. In her family, one was brought up to "leave the world a better place than you found it." Mrs. Sterne has certainly succeeded in doing so in our community. Cincinnati is grateful for her leadership, service, and commitment.

REGARDING SAN ANTONIO INS
OFFICE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great team of public servants in San Antonio, Texas, at the San Antonio District Office of the Immigration and Naturalization (INS) Service, who were the recipients of three separate national awards for excellence bestowed by INS this year.

Each year, the Commissioner of INS confers national awards for excellence honoring employees for their outstanding performance.

The employees of the Citizenship/Naturalization Unit were honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Immigration Services for reducing the waiting times for all citizenship/naturalization applications and for demonstrating an overall commitment to quality.

The same unit was honored with Vice President GORE's "Hammer Award" in June of last year for their innovative program to reach out to military applicants who often face transfer overseas or a deadline to reach citizenship before re-enlistment. Getting the waiting time for applications down is a minor miracle. The wait for those wishing to process documents with the INS has been 18 months or more for the past few years.

Port Director Ramon T. Juarez was honored with the Commissioner's Challenge Award for Border Facilitation, for his outstanding efforts in managing the Laredo Port of Entry. The Port reduced the waiting time for applicants for admission to 20 minutes or less.

San Antonio Investigative Assistant Jerome Bass was honored as Employee of the Year in the Administrative/Technological category. His peers say Bass has an "unselfish attitude and willingness to lend a hand." His dedication to the job brought him national attention.

These three awards are indicative of the dedication of the 432 employees in the San Antonio office. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for providing the best in government services.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM J. BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of William J. Brown, former Ohio Attorney General, who passed away last week. He was a man who had the ability to bring true integrity and a human quality to politics.